(c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has initiated an inter-disciplinary research project on organic farming in Network Mode involving 13 centres to develop the package of practices of different crops with various organic inputs.

A.P. Government's proposals pending with ministry

573. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals of Government of Andhra Pradesh being implemented/pending with the Ministry;

(b) the reasons for delay in giving clearance to the proposals proposal-wise; and

(c) by when these proposals of the State Government are likely to be given clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No specific proposal has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh or is pending. However, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation implements a number of schemes under which as part of approved work plans, financial assistance is provided to the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The detail of major schemes and the funds allocated and released during 2008-09 is attached in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Statement

The Allocation & Release in respect of major Schemes being implemented by the DAC in the State of Andhra Pradesh

(Rs.in Lakhs)

2008-09

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Allocation	Release (as on 18.2.09)
1.	Macro Management Scheme	7261.11	3428.72
2.	Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC)	1700.00	882.12
3.	National Horticulture Mission (NHM)	19694.49	10468.39
4.	Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms	2281.00	1026.00
5.	National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	10602.63	4416.02
6.	Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM)	5000.00	2500.00
7.	Micro Irrigation	14931.63	8801.06
8.	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)	31657.00	29717.00

Pension scheme for farmers

574. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Kerala has approved a plan to introduce pension scheme for farmers above the age of 60 years;

(b) if so, the names of other States, if any, who have similar plans under consideration;

(c) whether there is any proposal for such a plan/scheme under consideration of the Union Government also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Veterinary facilities in Andhra Pradesh

575. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the norms being followed for deciding number of veterinary doctors *vis-a-vis* livestock population;

(b) the number of veterinary doctors recommended for Andhra Pradesh under various livestock development related Central Scheme/ Programmes and whether recommended number of veterinary doctors for the State are compatible with the live stock population of the State;

(c) if so, dispensary/ polyclinic and hospital-wise present strength of veterinaries in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if not, the reasons for their shortage; and

(e) the number of additional veterinary dispensaries/ polyclinics/ hospitals proposed to be opened in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Government of Andhra Pradesh has prescribed the norms for establishment of new Veterinary Institutions through G.O. Ms no. 383, Food & Agri. (AH.III) Dept, dated 9th May, 1999 and partially modified in G.O. Ms. No. 675, Food & Agri. (AH.III) Deptt., 23rd September, 1991. The prescribed norms for opening of new Veterinary Institutions in the State are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (d) The number of Veterinary Doctors recommended for Andhra Pradesh under various livestock development related Central Schemes/Programmes are being made available by the State Government. There are 22 Polyclinics, 281 Veterinary Hospitals and 1833 Veterinary Dispensaries functioning in Andhra Pradesh, which are manned by Registered Veterinary Practitioners. Moreover, 3030 Rural Livestock Units are also functioning, which are manned by Paravets. Present strength of Veterinaries in. Veterinary Poly Clinics are 81; Veterinary Hospitals (224) and Veterinary Dispensaries (1373). (There is a marginal shortage of manpower in veterinary hospitals and dispensaries) Non-availability of sufficient number of Veterinary Graduates is the main reason for this. Some of the eligible veterinary graduates are opting for private sectors like banks, insurance companies,